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PTO/SB/30 (09-04)

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**REQUEST  
FOR  
CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)  
TRANSMITTAL**

Address to:  
Mail Stop RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Application Number	09/972,816
Filing Date	October 5, 2001
First Named Inventor	Masafumi Ishige
Group Art Unit	2621
Examiner Name	Helen Shibu
Attorney Docket Number	450104-02976

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.

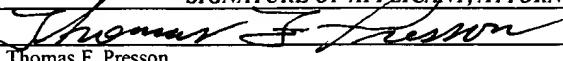
Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8 1995, or to any design application. See Instruction Sheet for RCEs (not to be submitted to the USPTO) on page 2.

1. **Submission required under CFR 1.114.** Note: If the RCE is proper, any previously filed unentered amendments and amendments enclosed with the RCE will be entered in the order in which they were filed unless applicant instructs otherwise. If applicant does not wish to have any previously filed unentered amendment(s) entered, applicant must request non-entry of such amendment(s).
  - a.  Previously submitted. If a final Office action is outstanding, any amendments filed after the final Office action may be considered as a submission even if this box is not checked.
    - i.  Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on \_\_\_\_\_
    - ii.  Other \_\_\_\_\_
  - b.  Enclosed
    - i.  Amendment/Reply
    - ii.  Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
    - iii.  Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
    - iv.  Other \_\_\_\_\_
2. **Miscellaneous**
  - a.  Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 CFR 1.103(c) for a period of \_\_\_\_\_ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 CFR 1.17(l) required)
  - b.  Other \_\_\_\_\_
3. **Fees** The RCE fee under 37 CFR 1.17(e) is required by 37 CFR 1.114 when the RCE is filed.
  - a.  The Director is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees, or credit any overpayments, to **Deposit Account No. 50-0320**.
  - b.  Checks in the amounts of **\$790.00** and **\$120.00** are enclosed for the following:
 

i. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RCE fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(e)	11/15/2006 SSESHE1 00000037 09972816
ii. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Extension of time fee (37 CFR 1.136 and 1.17)	01 FC:1801
iii. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	790.00 OP
c. <input type="checkbox"/> Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)	02 FC:1251
	120.00 OP

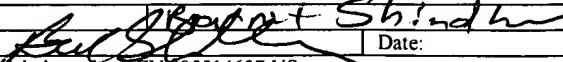
**WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit Card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.**

**SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED**

Signature		Date	November 13, 2006
Name (Print/Type)	Thomas F. Presson	Registration No.	41,442

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated below and is addressed to: **Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

Name (Print/Type)		Date:	November 13, 2006
Signature			

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.114. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) and application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.1 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the complete provisional application to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.